

## How would annexation affect NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & RECREATION?

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### *What's there now?*

King County currently operates and maintains two parks in East Renton:

- **Maplewood Park**, located at SE 138<sup>th</sup> St. and 144<sup>th</sup> Ave SE: almost 45 acres including a bridge, a fitness circuit area, a multi-purpose court, an open play field, three picnic areas, and a play equipment area. The park has no parking but is accessible by public road.
- **Maplewood Heights Park**, located at 168<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and SE 140<sup>th</sup> St.: 19 acres with no facilities and not accessible by public road. In addition, King County currently maintains the regional Cedar River-to-Lake Sammamish Trail site which will continue to be part of the King County Parks System. The County also operates nearby Coalfield Park which includes a play area and baseball and softball fields in the rural area adjacent to the potential annexation area. King County has no planned or historic capital investments in either park and states that there are no unfunded capital needs for the parks.

### *What would change if the area annexed?*

It is anticipated that upon annexation, Maplewood Park and Maplewood Heights Parks would be transferred to the City for maintenance and operation. Coalfield Park would remain with the County parks system.

Renton has different park standards than the County and provides a different level of park and recreation services. Under Renton management, existing parks would be evaluated for maintenance and equipment needs and capital development based on city standards. Sometime in the future, the City would embark on park planning efforts that would require extensive community input in East Renton. Based on that input, at some future point, new park facilities, either on existing undeveloped County park lands, or on other acreage in the area, would be needed to address the population growth occurring in the area. City of Renton staff has toured the parks that King County would transfer. If annexation occurred, next steps would include seeking the advice of local residents about their desires for the park.

In addition, Renton's Recreation Division operates recreational programming at elementary and middle schools and operates neighborhood and community centers. The nearest community center to the East Renton Plateau is the Highlands Community Center. Residents would be able to participate in these programs at the fee level residents now pay. Residents would also have access to the Renton Senior Center and Community Center at the Cedar River Park on the Maple Valley Highway, and would be able to use the aquatic center at resident fee levels.